

Message Text

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11

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-01 INR-07 /042 W
----- 121906

R 220647Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE 9393

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2518

DEPT PASS FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE

STOCKHOLM FOR AGRICULTURE ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FI

SUBJECT: CONTAMINATED SOYBEAN CARGO

1. SUMMARY: MANAGING DIRECTOR LAIHO OF FINNISH COMPANY OLJYPURISTAMO OY, OWNED 50 PERCENT BY UNILEVER AND 50 PERCENT BY FINNISH INTERESTS, CHIEFLY COOPERATIVES SOK AND KESKO, NOTIFIED EMBASSY NOV 20 THAT CARGO OF SOYBEANS ORIGINATING IN MOBILE, ALABAMA HAD ARRIVED IN HELSINKI WITH SUCH IMPURITIES THAT FINNISH AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION AUTHORITIES (MAATALOUS KEMIAN LAITOS - MKL) WERE UNLIKELY TO ALLOW CARGO TO BE USED FOR PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL FEED, AND THUS COMPANY WOULD NOT ACCEPT CARGO.

3. IMPURITIES CHIEFLY DIRT AND SEEDS "ADMIXTURE" ACCORDING TO LAIHO, BUT ALSO MAY REPEAT MAY CONTAIN CROTALARIA SEED WHICH LAIHO STATED WOULD RENDER CARGO UNFIT FOR ANY USE AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAN UP TO ANY USEABLE STANDARD. LAIHO ESTIMATES IMPURITIES AS UP TO 30 PERCENT, AND STATED MKL CARRYING OUT INSPECTION AND ANALYSIS NOW.

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3. CARGO CONSISTS OF 1,995,680 KILOS. ACCORDING TO

DOCUMENTS, CARGO IS PART OF GRADE NO. 2 SHIPMENT OF 780,320/40 BUSHESL WHICH WAS INSPECTED AT MOBILE, ALA. ON OCTOBER 18, 1975, INSPECTION NO.24936-10, APPEAL NO. 91-S, SIGNED BY R.W. PROBST. SHIPMENT LEFT ALABAMA ON SHIP "M/V MINERAL MARCHIENNE".

4. CARGO NOW IN HELSINKI WAS REMOVED FROM MINERAL MARCHIENNE AT ROTTERDAM ON NOVEMBER 11, 1975 AND TRANSFERRED INTO UK REGISTERED SHIP "MOIDART" WHICH ARRIVED IN HELSINKI ON NOVEMBER 16. OWNER OF CARGO IS FRG-BASED AGENT COMPANY "TOPFER", WITH OFFICES IN HAMBURG AND NEW YORK CITY. VALUE OF CARGO IS 1.7 MILLION FMK (\$450,000).

5. AFTER CONSULTING WITH AG ATTACHE, EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER INFORMED LAIHO THAT EMBASSY WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ESSENTIALLY CONTRACTUAL MATTER BETWEEN BUYER, SELLER AND SHIPPING AGENTS. EMBASSY WAS REQUESTED TO REPORT MATTER TO USDA AND INDICATED IT WOULD.

6. LAIHO STATED THAT MATTER WOULD PROBABLY GO TO ARBITRATION AT HAMBURG, AT WHICH TIME INSPECTION CERTIFICATE ISSUED MOBILE, ALA. WULD BE AN ISSUE, SINCE BOTH SELLING AGENT AND BUYER RELIED ON IT. COMPANY GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF INSPECTION CERTIFICATE AND ROTTERDAM TRANSHIPMENT CERTIFICATE, AND INDICATED WOULD FORWARD COPY OF RESULTS OF MKL INSPECTION. DOCUMENTS WILL BE POUCHED.

7. INSPECTION CERTIFICATE READS IN SECTION LABELLED "STOWAGE" AS FOLLOWS: "HOLD NO. 1; HOLDS NOS. 2,3, 5,7 SECON LOT ABOARD LOADED ON TOP OF OTHER SOYBEANS SAME GRADE WITHOUT SEPARATIONS."

8. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION OF PARA 7, AT LEAST IF THIS COULD INDICATE PRESENCE OF NON-US ORIGIN CARGO, OR OTHERWISE INVALIDATE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING CLAIM THAT FAULT LIES WITH USG INSPECTION PROCEDURE. LOCAL PRESS AWARE OF BASIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAILS OF SITUATION, BUT MATTER TREATED AS SIMPLE AND UNIMPORTANT COMMERCIAL MATTER SO FAR. AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD CONTAMINATION, SOYBEANS, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN02518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750407-0812
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751119/aaaaaqhy.tel
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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Subject: CONTAMINATED SOYBEAN CARGO
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